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Message Text

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67
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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EO 11652 NA
TAGS: PFOR, GH, TO
SUB: TOUGH TALK ON GHANA-TOGO RELATIONS

1. IN A STATEMENT MADE TO REPORTERS COVERING HIS RETURN FROM AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO BRITIAN, REPORTED IN THE DEC 6 EDITONS OF THE DAILY GRAPHIC AND GHANAIAN TIMES, GHANA'S COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, COL RJA FELLI LECTURED TOGO ON HOW IT COULD GO ABOUT IMPROVING ITS RELATIONS WITH GHANA. HE SAID THE GOT SHOULD DENOUNCE THE TOGOLESE LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND EXPEL ALL ITS MEMBERS FROM TOGO, AND DISCOURAGE THE HIGH INCIDENCE OF SMUGGLING ALONG THE GHANA-TOGO BORDER. HE SAID THAT IF TOGO TOOK THESE ACTIONS, GHANA'S HEAD OF STATE, GEN ACHEAMPONG, IS PRE-PRARED TO SEND HIM (FELLI) TO TOGO TOMMORROW.

2. THE GNANAIAN TIMES, WHOSE EDITOR IS VERY CLOSE TO ACHEAMPONG, CARRIED AN EDITORIAL IN ITS DEC 6 EDITION WHICH COMMENTED ON GHANA-TOGO RELATIONS. THE EDITORIAL NOTED THAT GHANA HAS MADE ATTEMPTS OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH TOGO, BUT THAT TOGO HAS "NOT RECIPROCATED IN A SUITABLE MANNER."
"GHANAIANS HAVE BEEN VERY TOLERANT ALL THESE YEARS," IT CON-TINUED, AND THEN ADDED THAT "IT WOULD BE FUTILE FOR ANONE
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TO MISCONSTRUE GHANA'S TOLERANCE AND ACCOMMODATIVE SPIRIT TO

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MEAN WEAKNESS." THE EDITORIAL WENT ON TO SAY THAT "SHOULD THE NEED ARISE, THE WORLD WOULD KNOW THAT GHANA HAS ALWAYS BEEN CAPABLE OF DEFENDING HER FRONTIERS WITH ABOUNDING STRENGTH AND GLORY, REGARDLESS OF DEFENCE PACTS WHICH SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES MAINTAIN WITH POWERS WHICH OTHERS HAVE DESCRIBED AS PAPER TIGERS."

3. COMMENT: THIS OUTBURST OF TRUCULENCE TOWARDS TOGO IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING AND MAY BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO EVENTS THAT MAY HAVE TRANSPIRED DURING FELLI'S VISIT TO BRITAIN. A MORE LIKELY EXPLANTATION, HOWEVER, IS THAT THIS IS A PLOY TO DIVERT THE GHANAIAN PUBLIC'S ATTENTION FROM DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THE GOG'S INABILITY TO DAL WITH THEM. THE TIMES' EDITORIAL REFERENCE TO DEFENCE PACTS IS INTERESTING AND SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT THE GOG HAS BEEN PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE GOT'S EFFORTS TO OBRAIN INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR ITS IRREDENTIST CLAIM ON GHANA'S VOLTA REGION.
SMITH

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